

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.OFFICE: N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.
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THE DAILY HERALD, THREE CENTS PER COPY.
THE WEEKLY HERALD, EVERY SATURDAY, AT FIVE CENTS PER COPY. Annual subscription price:—One Copy 3 Cts.
Three Copies 8
Five Copies 12
Ten Copies 25
Volume XXVIII.....No. 19

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—LEAH, THE FORSAKEN.
WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—BOLD STRIKE FOR A HUSBAND.
WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—CHERRY CORNER.—FRANCIS STEVENS.
LAURA KERRY'S THEATRE, Broadway.—ACTRESS BY DAYLIGHT.—SUNDAY BLISS.
NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—HARLEQUIN JACK SHEPPARD.—THE BLAS.—REGARDING.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MILLER'S MAID.—JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.—WHEAT'S SKIFF.
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—MISS LADY VAMPIRE.—COMMODORE NUTT, AC., AT ALL HOURS.
THE PATENT.—Afternoon and Evening.
BRYAN'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, AC.—HIGH DADDT.
WOODS' MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, AC.—SILVER TUNTER.
BUCKLEY'S MINSTRELS, Shaftesbury Place, 650 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, AC.—TWO FOMPT.
NAPOLÉON'S THEATRE, 535 Broadway.—OMNIBUS ENTERTAINMENT.
COOPER INSTITUTE, Broadway.—DR. MACGOWAN'S LECTURE ON JAPAN.
BROADWAY MENAGERIE, Broadway.—LIVING WILD ANIMALS, REHEARSED FIRST AC.
AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, No. 44 Broadway.—BALLET, PATRONAGE, BURLINGTON, AC.
PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 503 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.
HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, BURLINGTON, AC.
BROOKLYN ATHLETIC.—MR. AND MRS. E. L. DAVENPORT.—FIGHTING AND DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES.

New York, Monday, January 19, 1863.

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THE SITUATION.

In consequence of the various rumors published in several papers, and the interruption of passes to the Army of the Potomac, there is naturally existing at the present time considerable anxiety to learn what is doing on the Rappahannock. Nothing, however, of any importance relative to any movements came over the telegraph lines yesterday; but it is probably the determination of the military authorities to keep all the armies in motion—General Burnside's army among the others. The next week or two may prove a time of considerable importance in military operations.

Despatches from Fort Monroe state that orders have been issued that officers of the United States Army captured after the 12th inst. are to be handed over to the Governors of the rebel States within whose jurisdiction they are taken, to be dealt with in accordance with Jeff. Davis' recent declaration that they are to be regarded as persons deserting from the Union under President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

General Halleck has issued an order, which may be regarded as retaliatory, commanding that no rebel officers shall be released until further orders.

General McClelland sends an official account of the capture of the rebel fort at Arkansas Post on the 11th inst.

Our New Orleans correspondence contains a very interesting account of the late disaster to the Union arms at Galveston, and confirms the tale of our loss to be the capture of the Harriet Lane, the death of her commander and the killing or wounding of nearly all her men; the blowing up of the flagship Westfield, and the death of Commodore Rowland and about twenty of his men; the capture of two or three schooners loaded with coal, and the surrender of the whole Union force in Galveston city, which numbered less than three hundred men.

We give a fine map of the locality to-day, showing the scene of the bold operations of the rebel boats against our fleet. The description of the fight on board the Harriet Lane, the death of her commander and her capture will be read with intense interest.

General Grant censures the commandant at Holly Springs, Miss., for surrendering that place to the rebels and allowing his garrison to be paroled. He says that the post could have been held if ordinary precautions for defence were taken.

The rebel account of the tremendous raid of General Van Dorn, which we publish to-day, represents it as a fearful and most brilliant affair, the rebel women taking an active part in urging on the enemy to massacre our troops.

Another rebel piratical craft, the schooner Retribution, is plying her trade in the vicinity of the Island of St. Thomas. She has just been chasing two United States vessels, and boarded one of them. She came originally from Wilmington, N. C., about a month ago, loaded with turpentine and cotton, carrying her guns concealed in the hold.

In addition to the interesting collection of rebel correspondence which we published yesterday, we give our readers to-day a rare epistle from a volunteer correspondent of the London Times. This writer is not Mr. Lawley, of Richmond's notoriety, and who at the time this letter was written was somewhere in the vicinity of Fredericksburg, but a new disciple of Secession named London. The letter contains a great many statements which will surprise the public, especially those in reference to alleged Yankee outrages under General Butler's directions in New Orleans. The strength, resources, wealth and resistive powers of the Southern confederacy are fully discussed, and numerous specious pretences urged on the European Powers for the

recognition of the Confederate government. The status of the slave population, and their relation to their Southern masters and the Northern abolitionists, are also dealt upon with vigor and bitterness. The writer refers to the Confederate Minister in London, and expresses the greatest anxiety for the publication of his letter in the Times or some other London paper. The document, on the whole, is a curious one, and will amply repay careful perusal.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The latest developments in the matter of the pending election of Speaker of the Assembly at Albany, show that a high state of excitement on the subject still exists. The republican members held a caucus on Saturday night, when it was resolved to stick to Mr. Callioot as their candidate. A statement of the present condition of affairs was made out for presentation to Governor Seymour, in which he is requested to call out the militia to preserve order in the State capital. It is said that a resolution to this effect will also be passed in the Senate to-day or to-morrow, and that the Governor will accede to the request. The Assembly does not meet again till Wednesday of this week.

The brig Costa Rica, from Aspinwall, brings us intelligence of a destructive fire which visited that thriving city on the 22d of December last. The total damage done is estimated at not less a sum than \$300,000. The Panama Railroad office, the St. Charles Hotel, the Aspinwall House, the Howard House and several other valuable buildings were laid in ashes. We give a full account of the conflagration, with some account of Aspinwall, in another column.

The following United States vessels were at Pensacola, Fla., on the 6th inst.—Steamer Circassian, ships Boughton, W. E. Anderson, Potomac, Onida, Nightingale and Preble, and brig Bohio.

The thirty-ninth anniversary of the New York Bible Society was held last evening, at the Presbyterian church, Madison square. The attendance on the occasion was not so large as usual. The opening prayers were offered by the Rev. Dr. Adams, after which the annual report was read by the Secretary, Mr. Parker. This was a very interesting document, lengthy, and full of incidents of the camp and of the battle field, wherein soldiers showed their devotion to the Gospel as well as their fidelity to the cause for which they had taken up arms. Since the breaking out of the war the labors of the society have been very considerably increased, but the results are in every respect satisfactory, and compare most favorably with those of preceding years. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Adams, Rev. Dr. Cox and Rev. Dr. Hall. A collection was then made, and the proceedings were closed by prayer.

The Wheeling Intelligencer says the rumor of a rebel advance upon Winchester, Virginia, was without foundation. All is quiet in that vicinity as the unbroken stillness on the Rappahannock.

The Legislatures of New York, New Jersey, Ohio, California, Wisconsin, Missouri and West Virginia are yet to choose United States Senators for the places of those whose terms expire with the present Congress.

Captain John Brown, of the Thirtieth Ohio regiment, son of old Ossawatimie Brown, who was hung at Charlestown, Virginia, is one of the officers recently dismissed from service for being on home duty without leave.

What the Southern papers call "consecration" is nothing more nor less than the operations of legalized press gangs.

Edison B. Olds, who was recently released from Fort Lafayette, is a member, in full communion, of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Lancaster, Ohio.

It is said that the conservative party of New Hampshire will make the following peace proposition a party issue in the coming election in that State:—An immediate armistice, and a speedy peace; the States to be reunited, the war expenses of both parties to be assumed by the federal government, and slavery to assume the place which it held before the breaking out of the rebellion.

In his recent message, Governor Robinson, of Kentucky, recommends a firm adherence to the cause of the Union, and says the State will not abate one jot or tittle of her opposition to secession or to abolition.

The Erie canal embankment, near Rochester, broke away on the 9th instant, and the rush of the water caused damage to property amounting to fifty or sixty thousand dollars.

Chabrous F. Jackson, whose death was some days ago announced, and the report to-day confirmed, was elected Governor of Missouri in 1850. He ran on the Douglas democratic ticket, beating Hannibal Jackson (Breckinridge democrat), James B. Gardiner (republican) and Sample Orr (national Union). The term for which he was elected expired on the last day of 1862.

The collector of the government war tax in Louisville, Kentucky, between the 25th of November and the 31st of December collected and paid over one hundred and eighty thousand dollars.

John Anderson, the fugitive slave whose case excited so much interest some time since, is about to leave England for Liberia, where he intends to settle.

The New Orleans correspondent of the Boston Traveller writes that Major General Augur will command the grand division in the advance upon Port Hudson, and the brigades will be commanded respectively by Brigadier General Wetzel and Acting Brigadier General Dudley, formerly Colonel of the Thirtieth Massachusetts. The troops are in the highest spirits, and eager for the impending struggle to commence.

Mr. Keys, late editor of the Circleville, Ohio, Watchman, has become a raving maniac, owing to his incarceration as a State prisoner. He is at present in the Lunatic Asylum at Columbus.

The stock market was active and buoyant on Saturday afternoon; some weakness was caused by sales to close accounts; but before the adjournment of the public board the market recovered its tone and closed firmly. Gold yesterday, closing at 147½. Exchange was steady at 162½ a 163. Money was active at six per cent; but houses in good credit found no difficulty in supplying their wants.

Cotton advanced on Saturday to 7½c. for middlings, with sales and realize reported to the extent of 2,200 bales. Flour, wheat and corn were a shade firmer, and in fair demand. There was more activity in provisions, and prices were well supported. The transactions in groceries were very moderate, without any quotable change in value. Whiskey was 1c. 2c. higher, with heavier sales. There was considerable activity in hay, hops, hides and wool, while other articles of general merchandise were quiet. The freight engagements were fair and rates steady.

THE ARKANSAS VICTORY.—The capture of the place known as Arkansas Post, on the Arkansas river, with seven thousand prisoners, nine pieces of artillery and immense munitions of war, is the most important federal success in the Southwest since the capture of Fort Donelson and its garrison nearly a year ago. Its importance as regards Arkansas can hardly be overrated. It gives our government complete military possession of the State, and with ordinary prudence settles its destiny. It makes some amends for the failure to capture Vicksburg, and must afford more than ordinary gratification to the troops who had been repulsed just before from that stronghold of the Mississippi, through the incompetence of generals and the blundering of officials at Washington. This victory is a bright spot in the history of the winter campaign—an oasis in a desert, barren of useful results.

Jeff. Davis' Policy and How to Defeat It.

We published on Saturday last the message of Jeff. Davis to the Congress of the so-called Confederate States. This message will no doubt produce a great effect in Europe, and its style and semblance of quiet determination and unshaken resolution will there find most enthusiastic admirers. The recent successes of the rebels at Fredericksburg, Vicksburg and Galveston give plausibility to many of Jeff. Davis' statements; and, although we hope before long to balance these repulses by a succession of brilliant victories like those of Murfreesboro and Arkansas Post, at different points, still we must prepare ourselves for a strong and perhaps successful movement in Europe in favor of the confederacy. Jeff. Davis' indictment of the European Powers will be eagerly pressed by the secession agents. Our counter charges that neutrality has been prostituted into sympathy for the rebellion will hardly supply Earl Russell with a sufficient defence, while the exposition which we published yesterday of the French designs upon Texas gives Jeff. Davis the whip hand of Louis Napoleon. As for the emancipation proclamation, it has proved, as we predicted, not only a *brutum fulmen* against the rebels, but a powerful weapon against ourselves. Jeff. Davis handles it with consummate skill. He uses it, first, to assure the Southern people that secession was justifiable, and that the sagacity of the rebel leaders was not at fault when they anticipated that the election of Mr. Lincoln would result in an abolition despotism. He then employs the proclamation to induce Europe to relinquish its horror of the cruelties of slavery by exhibiting the greater cruelties of immediate emancipation. And, finally, he attempts to prove to the people of the North that President Lincoln has violated all his pledges and made reunion an impossibility by adopting a measure which "cannot coexist with Union." Of all these results we warned the President before the proclamation was issued. We ask him to compare our predictions with those of the radicals, and decide whose advice deserves to be regarded.The policy of Jeff. Davis, as expressed in this message, may be summed up in a few words. It is simply to do as he has been doing. He asks no foreign intervention, he proposes nothing new, he merely advises perseverance and fortitude, and assures his followers that this will be the closing year of the war. We shall find, therefore, in the acts and declarations of Jeff. Davis immediately preceding the issue of this message the details of his policy for the future. All his anxieties, his plans, his hopes, have recently seemed to centre upon one point, and that point is Vicksburg. In other words, the grand scheme of the rebels at present is to retain the practical possession of the Mississippi. This they believe to be only the more essential because they imagine that the war is nearly over. It were useless to demonstrate how preeminently important it is for the rebels to control the Mississippi during the continuance of the war. But if the war should suddenly cease, and the confederacy be recognized, either by an armistice or through foreign intervention, how much more important would the control of the Mississippi be then? The West would be at the mercy of the South, and would have its choice of the two alternatives—to submit to or to unite with the confederacy. Those who have carefully considered the signs of the times can have but little doubt that, if the confederacy were a recognized Power, and held the Father of Waters in its possession, the Western States would unite with the South, perhaps *en masse*, but probably one by one, under the Confederate constitution, which permits any State to join or to leave the confederacy at pleasure. But, any General Banks and others of like opinions, the East and the West are linked together by great railroads, and this connection cannot be broken, because the West must have access to the Atlantic and the East must have access to the products of the West. All this is true; but the question is whether the Central States would not go with the Western States, if the latter refused to remain out of the confederacy and without the Mississippi. New England would thus be left solitary and desolate, and the Southern, Western and Central States would form a new union under the Montgomery constitution. Stranger things than such a reconstruction have occurred within the last two years.

It must be understood, however, that the probability of these events rests upon the hypothesis of the ability of the rebels to retain the control of the Mississippi. Encouraged by the recent rebel victory at Vicksburg, Jeff. Davis regards this as certain, and we are assured that his programme is not essentially different from that we have indicated. When the rebel leader urged the defence of Vicksburg to the last extremity, because of its importance, both in a military and political point of view, he meant that by holding Vicksburg he could force the West either to continue to struggle against him or to submit to him. Thus he expects to divide public sentiment in the West now and to secure that section for the confederacy when the rebels are recognized as a nation. Thaddeus Stevens has already declared that the confederacy is another nation; and we are told that Greeley is now at Washington, working, with other radicals, for some sort of a peace. Do these men know what they are doing? Are they completely and insanely mad? If they were Jeff. Davis' paid agents they could not better advance his interests. They think, perhaps, that by now reviving their old plan of allowing the South to leave the Union, they can count upon a permanent lease of power in the Northern non-slaveholding section of the republic. Do they not see that, on the contrary, the Northern conservative States will go with the South in the event of recognized disunion, and that they will have no secession, except that of New England, to govern? We urge the President to shut his ears against the counsels of these fanatical fools. Let him read in the results of his emancipation proclamation the bitter consequences of following their advice. Has that proclamation ended the war, as Greeley predicted? Has it intimidated the rebels, as the Tribune promised? Has it crowded the highways and byways with eager volunteers, as Governor Andrew prophesied? Has it gained us a single friend in Europe, where abolitionism is now smothered by self-interest? Has it not divided, discouraged and disheartened the North? Has it not united, cheered and infuriated the rebels? Has it not given the quietus to volunteering, and fomented discord in our armies? Has it not furnished new pretenses and even justifications for European interference? We must insist upon a consideration of these questions. We must remind President Lincoln that the country is on the

brink of ruin, and that tampering with the negro has brought us there. Both the armies and the policy of the rebels must be defeated or the nation is lost. We must have great and decisive victories, not little, indecisive expeditions valuable only to shipbrokers and contractors. To this end President Lincoln must dismiss his present incompetent Cabinet, recall his abolition proclamations, return to his original policy of a war for the Union and union for the war, and put our best generals—now exiled from the field—at the head of our armies. All this justice, honesty and patriotism demand. Less than this will not save the Union. This done, we shall soon possess the Mississippi, and break up the rebel armies East and West. Joking and story telling will not avail. Reform and decisive action are necessary to preserve the country, or rather to remove the present disastrous hindrances and impediments, and allow the country to work out its own salvation.

Napoleon's Reasons for Favoring the Davis Government.

The advices from Europe announce that the Emperor Napoleon made a short address on New Year's day to the assembled representatives of foreign governments at his Court, in which he assured them of his continued desire for peace. We also hear that he addressed a remark to our Minister, Mr. Dayton, which is construed by some into a declaration that for another year he will not interfere in our affairs. We have never placed any great reliance upon Napoleon's assertions. We judge his course by his actions, having a distinct remembrance of his emphatic denials of any desire to obtain Nice and Savoy, at the very time he was forcing Victor Emanuel, by intrigues and threats, to cede him these provinces. From reliable sources we obtain information from Paris which induces us to conclude that the Emperor of the French has evidently made up his mind to espouse the cause of the South. The rebel leaders in Paris are now the recipients of imperial favor. The Empress has taken under her immediate patronage the prominent secession ladies who dwell in Paris, while the courtiers, one and all, vie in their attentions to Sidel, his family and his circle of associates from the South. These are significant facts, and have a greater importance than would be attributed to them by those not aware how every action of Napoleon is weighed, how carefully he shadows forth his course by signs which escape the attention of the unwary, but which carry conviction to those who have carefully watched his policy.

Until Napoleon fully made up his mind to favor the South he was cold and forbidding to Sidel and his followers. They were not to be received at Court—in fact, were ostracized. Those were the days when our victories pressed closely upon each other; those the days when the continuance of the rebellion seemed impossible. Our successes, however, became worthless and without serious results, through the gross negligence and imbecility of our departments at Washington; and when it became evident that the chances of Davis for a successful resistance were augmenting, Napoleon related somewhat towards Sidel, and allowed the rebel a short half hour's audience. From that moment the hopes of the secessionists rose. They well knew what importance to attach to Napoleon's least action. We met with reverses, while, to add to our complications, it became evident to the world that the North was divided; that a few fanatics—men with but one thought, one desire—were driving the country to destruction. Then Napoleon invited Sidel to breakfast. When they heard in France that our gallant army had been repulsed at Fredericksburg, the Emperor took Sidel into his intimacy, and now he and his like are the favorites at the French Court. Those who know what this indicates will understand that Napoleon now openly espouses the cause of Davis. We shall not be surprised if our next files from Europe give details of the grand reception at the Tuilleries of "his Excellency Sidel, Minister of President Davis."

There are many reasons why Napoleon should favor the South, the most important of which is that Davis promises not only to help Napoleon in Mexico, but, as a further inducement, and to furnish a noble motive for Napoleon's recognition, the South actually promises to free her slaves within some given space of time. Napoleon is aware that he will be safe from us for a period, as regards any interference with his Mexican expedition, if he succeeds in raising up a barrier between us and himself, such as a Southern confederacy. He covets the silver mines of Mexico; he has made grand plans for working them on a scale never before attempted, and expects great results. But he must be free from interference for some time to carry out these schemes; and only in the existence of the South as a government could he remain undisturbed in Mexico. Napoleon will tell his people he recognizes the South because he is ever the "aid of all nations struggling for existence." This phrase did great service at the opening of the Italian campaign. It tickles the vanity of the French people to be told they have built up a new Power. Cotton will be procured from Southern ports, and this will be still another grand argument for Napoleon in favor of his recognition of Davis. He will say to his subjects, "I have acknowledged the existence of the South as a nation, and you see the results—immediate employment for the starving operatives and the alliance of a new Power." He trusts that, aided by the South, his plans for the conquest and occupation of Mexico will succeed, and that immediate revenues obtained from that country will silence the opposition of the people to the Mexican expedition. Up to the present time Napoleon has been unsuccessful in Mexico. He naturally understands he must succeed there ultimately, as the French people would never forgive his having undertaken the campaign were he to withdraw now, after the useless expenditure of hundreds of millions of francs.

Napoleon's position at this moment in Europe is a most unfavorable one. The Italians have set aside his power and influence, and will allow no further interference on his part in their affairs. We hear from a reliable source that the relations between France and Spain are almost suspended, owing to the irritation which has arisen out of Napoleon's policy in Mexico; while in England the *entente cordiale* has become an empty sound. Napoleon must keep up his influence abroad if he wishes to reign in France. He knows that his people will cease to care for or respect his rule the moment it becomes weakened. So he will, we fear, make a great show of recognizing the South as an instance of the influence and power of France, the more likely as he will reap immediate and substantial results from

such a step. That he is in favor of the Davis Government none can doubt. His actions prove this. A careful survey of his present position will convince those who understand the people of France that Napoleon can make capital with them by a recognition of the Southern confederacy; and we are all aware that he is ever ready to follow where his interests lead. We must not imagine that respect for our power will deter Napoleon. Our mistakes and blunders have taught him to doubt its existence.

Change in the Cabinet Unanimously Demanded.

The energy and vitality of the American nation are most wonderful. Few other nations could have contended so long with such a gigantic rebellion, even under the most favorable circumstances. No other nation could have carried on the contest for a single month under such an administration as that which we have been forced to endure. The Scriptural Samson had but a single Delilah to cripple him during his struggle with the Philistines; but the American Samson has a Cabinet of Delilahs, each vying with the others to prevent his success. The loyal States have twenty-three millions of white people and the rebel States only six millions, and with such tremendous odds the long duration and slow progress of this apparently endless war seem most unaccountable. The mystery is at once explained, however, when we consider that the efforts of the loyal States are nullified by our own rulers. It is a shameful and disgraceful fact that three intriguing and incompetent Secretaries and one imbecile, useless General-in-Chief have so cramped, hindered and impeded the nation that, like a blinded giant, we have harmed ourselves much more than our enemies.

We are rejoiced to find that the most radical republicans have at last discovered the true causes of our failure, and unite with the rest of the people in demanding a change in the Cabinet and in the policy of the war. The resolutions unanimously adopted by a caucus of republican Senators speak the real sentiments of the country. These resolutions demand a vigorous and successful prosecution of the war, and in order to accomplish this they require that the present Cabinet shall be dismissed, and that a Cabinet of statesmen, able, resolute and determined, shall be formed to replace the heterogeneous collection of California lawyers, financial blunderers and rusty, dusty, antiquated fossils who now pretend to manage the departments. These demands are heartily endorsed by the whole country, and there is no reason, good, bad or indifferent, why they should not be immediately complied with by the President. We are aware that, during such a crisis as this, the chief Executive should be charitably judged. He is surrounded by such a wall of professed friends, sycophantic office hunters, sleek contract seekers, who beslime him with fulsome flatteries in the hope of obtaining a chance to clutch at the national purse, and frenzied fanatics, who are eager to drag him into the same black perdition which awaits themselves, that it is almost impossible for the real voice of public opinion to reach and move him. The independent press, however, is the modern substitute for the ear of Dionysius. Let the President listen, and he will hear the universal clamor for a change in his Cabinet and his policy.

But, though the President may possibly have been deceived and deluded by Chase, Stanton, Halleck and Company during the terrible days which have passed, we are at a loss to understand how that deception and delusion can longer continue. The republican Senators have hitherto supported the administration, and have even assisted in the grand abolition scheme of prostituting our gallant armies into philanthropic bands of wet and dry nurses for the contrabands, and our loyal States into vast negro nurseries. What do these Senators say now? They see, if the President does not, that the nation is lost unless we drop pseudo philanthropy and begin fighting. They see, if the President does not, that with a Secretary of the Treasury who has so muddled the finances of the country that ruin seems inevitable; with a Secretary of the Navy incapable of managing his department, and unable to protect our commerce from the ravages of a single pirate; with a Secretary of War whose ambition has strangled his patriotism, and who has devoted his energies, not to crushing out the rebellion, but to tyrannizing over loyal citizens; with a General-in-Chief who, according to his own sworn statement, is a nobody, the sickening spectacle of the Mexican republic will soon be out-heroded by the anarchy which awaits this once proud, powerful and prosperous country. Let the President, then, read the resolutions passed by the republican Senators. Let him read the earnest and eloquent protest which Thurlow Weed has recently addressed to the republican party. There can be but one answer to the startling inquiries which Thurlow Weed suggests. We are drifting to destruction, and a change in the Cabinet and of the policy of the war alone can save us.

With these bitter truths before him, how can the President longer hesitate and delay? What is there about Messrs. Chase, Stanton, Welles and Halleck that their retention in office is worth the past sacrifices of life and treasure and the present sacrifice of the country? Are incompetency, incapacity and imbecility at so high a premium at Washington? Is the government so dependent upon this quartet of sumps that it will fall to pieces if they be removed? If not, why are they retained? Does the President condescend to consider the question of political expediency during times like these? If so, the Cabinet should be changed for all parties—democratic, republican, conservative—agree in demanding it. Is the question one of military necessity? If so, the Cabinet should be changed for the present incumbents have gained no victories, and are directly or indirectly responsible for every defeat. But what is the use of argument when all are agreed, and when the question is as clear as noonday. We tell the President that his administration has forfeited the confidence of the country. Without that confidence it is impossible to successfully conclude the war. If the American Samson had not been a sensible, patient, long suffering giant, both the Cabinet conspirators and the loyal people would long ago have been crushed together beneath the ruins of the Capitol. As it is, the people are yet masters of themselves and of the situation. Let President Lincoln give up a competent Cabinet, return to the policy of a war for the Union and not for the negro, which he announced in his inaugural address and reasserted

in his first message, and recall our best generals to the field, and all will yet go well. The nation is dying, not of the rebellion, but of a weak, imbecile and unworthy administration.

The Courts Martial at Washington—The President Now on Trial.

The turn which the courts martial at Washington have now taken is one of the most singular features in the strange, eventful history of the war. Major Generals Porter and McDowell were put on trial, not because their accusers believed there was anything against them, but in order to assail General McClelland by a side wind. The testimony has long since established their innocence. Yet the investigation in the case of General McDowell is being protracted, while the services of so many general officers are sorely needed in the field.

For some time it has been made apparent to the country that the man who has been really on trial is General McClelland, and that trial a purely *ex parte* one; for he had not the opportunity to defend himself, because, nominally, other generals were being tried. But the evidence insidiously introduced to damage him has completely failed to do so, and only adds fresh laurels to his military reputation. Every attempt to detract from his merits has recoiled upon the heads of his malignant enemies. For example, it has come to light that he was cheated out of 23,000 men by some bogus pocus in the War Department, which persuaded Mr. Lincoln that he had taken with him 108,000, when he had only 85,000. The 23,000 thus held back from him, and which were essential to the plan of the campaign, as agreed upon before General McClelland started for the field, would have enabled him to succeed; and even without them it is shown that he would have succeeded had not McDowell been positively ordered not to co-operate with him. Again: the testimony we published yesterday, giving an account of a council of war held by McClelland and his generals at Manassas last spring, after the rebel army had retreated to Gordonsville, shows that that council were unanimous in their opinion that the best route to Richmond was from Fortress Monroe and up the peninsula, between the York and James rivers. Yet the unilitary men at Washington who controlled the armies insisted that it was not, and embarrassed the movement from first to last by not complying with the conditions necessary to render the peninsular campaign successful. One of these indispensable conditions, as stated in the unanimous resolution of the council of war, was that "the Merrimac must be neutralized." It is well known that this was not done; and yet General McClelland was peremptorily ordered to advance at latest on the 18th of March, and held "responsible that the army move as early as that day." Had the Merrimac been captured or destroyed before McClelland was thus ordered to move, the James river would have become the base of operations, and Richmond would have been undoubtedly taken before the enemy had time to concentrate his forces there. It is a curious and instructive fact that Commodore Goldsborough, who not only did not destroy the Merrimac, but allowed her to surprise and destroy two of our finest frigates in Hampton Roads, was rewarded for thus rendering the expedition against the rebel capital a failure by being promoted to the position of rear admiral.

The case against McClelland having completely broken down, the radicals have now put the President on trial. In order to relieve themselves and the War Department from all responsibility, they produce despatches and orders of the President, for the purpose of placing the onus entirely upon him, while it is notorious that Mr. Lincoln acted by their advice and that of their military subordinates at Washington. It is no wonder that campaign after campaign should fail. Success under such circumstances would be next to miraculous.

THE LOSS OF THE MONITOR—ARE THE IRON-CLADS A FAILURE?—It is of course patent to everybody that our noble little Monitor—that complete solution of the great naval question of the age, which dictated reconstruction to the navies of the world—is no more. Apart from the great grief felt for the loss of this little dictator and those noble men who perished with her, there are matters of far greater importance to the nation involved in this accident. Have any of the destructive characteristics of the Edison system, the revolving casemate or turret, the concentration of heavy armor over a small area, because of the small height which the vessel is above water, and the protection of those vital parts—the rudder and screw—been overturned by this disaster? If so, the loss of the Monitor would, indeed, be a calamity to the country.

We have carefully examined into the circumstances of this accident in this view, and we are happy to state that it does not militate against one of the features above mentioned. The Monitor foundered from a leak, in a severe gale, as many other vessels have done before her. She was not engulfed, as many predicted she would be, by a single huge wave, but foundered in the usual manner. Her small height above water had nothing to do with the disaster. Had she been twenty feet high the result would have been the same.

The primary consideration in the construction of the Monitor was the raising the blockade of the Potomac. Her deck was pierced by four large holes, covered with bomb-proof gratings, two for the escape of the products of combustion and two for the admission of air to the blowers. These apertures were protected, when at sea, by means of thin iron pipes, and the leakage around these nearly caused the loss of the vessel on her first trip to Fortress Monroe. The hull proper was merely a large scow, without any attempt at model, the bulkhead which supported the turret being the only one in the entire vessel.

The new Monitors, instead of having their decks pierced with large holes, receive the air down through the turrets, and discharge the gases from the furnaces through a shotproof pipe of sufficient height to prevent the sea from entering. The hull proper, instead of being a mere scow, is of the ordinary form, strengthened by means of no less than five heavy transverse bulkheads, besides strong fore and aft keelsons, of which the original had none; yet, strange to say, in the fearful ordeal to which she was subjected no want of longitudinal strength was observed. The cracking of the plates at the junction of the rudder and screw, was the cause of the sinking of the Monitor. In the new ones not only is this overhanging very much less, owing to an improved arrangement of the screw, but it is secured in a much stronger manner. Besides, should a leak occur in this part, the water is